

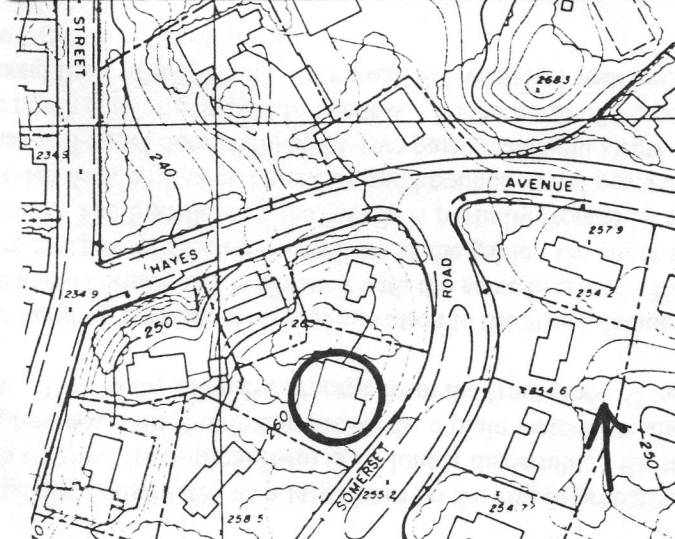
FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
56/103

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1121



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 13-15 Somerset Road

Historic Name Hayes Estate Barn

Uses: Present Multi-family Residential

Original Barn

Date of Construction late 19th c.

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form No Style

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim wood clapboards

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

two garages

Major Alterations (with dates) date? - converted to
residential use including new siding, windows, porches

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 19, 143 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 2000

BUILDING FORM (13-15 Somerset Road)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Originally constructed as a large barn on the Hayes property, this building was converted into a two-family house in the early 20th century; its original form is no longer discernible. Resting on a rubble foundation, the side-gabled building is clapboarded with simple cornerboards, a plain watertable and overhanging, bracketed eaves which end in returns on the gable ends. Two brick chimneys emerge from the front slope of the asphalt-shingled roof.

The building presents its broad elevation to the street, facing east. An offcenter gable wall dormer breaks through the bracketed cornice and is finished with the same brackets. The sidewalls of the dormer are clad in board and batten siding and there is a pair of small 6/6 windows in the gable. On either side of the larger dormer is a smaller wood-shingled gable dormer. The first floor of the facade is partially fronted by a single-story porch supported by squared posts resting on a wooden deck with stick balusters and knobbed newel posts above a latticed airspace. Under the porch the entrance contains a glass-and-panel door, flanked by two partial sidelight strips, four lights each, which are set into the wall. Also sheltered by the porch is a large tripartite window. To the north of the porch is a three-sided bay window with a dentil molding. On the second floor of the facade, four small 2/2 windows with molded surrounds were inserted under the eaves after the barn was converted to residential use.

The north elevation is spanned by an identical square-posted porch and contains a second entrance. Adjacent to this entrance there is a diamond-paned sash. The rear (south) gable is punctuated by 1/1 windows with a three-sided bay window and a rear deck and small gabled enclosed porch.

To the south of the house is a small, gablefront garage with a single offcenter overhead garage door. To the north there is a concrete block garage, capped by a hip roof with exposed rafters and two individual garage openings.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

(See 60 Meriam St., MHC # 388)

This land was originally part of the 400-acre Francis B. Hayes estate which extended from Adams and Hancock Streets to Woburn Street (the house known as Oakmount or The Castle was built in 1884 and demolished in 1941). This portion of the Hayes estate was laid out in houselots in 1909. This building was originally the large barn on the property. It is not known exactly when it was converted into a two-family dwelling.

The property appears to have been owned by Henry Pratt in the 1920s. It was owned by Franklin and Nancy Coleman from about 1930 until 1951 and by Rebecca Adams from 1951 to 1978.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Worthen, Edwin B. List of Moved Buildings, #133. [Courtesy of Nancy Seasholes].

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*